

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 04436 231053Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /121 W
-----100894 231057Z /11

P 231024Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7579
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USMTN, USEEC
ACTION STR PASS ELECTRICALLY
PASS AGRICULTURE
STR PASS CODEL

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: MTN, EEC, ETRD
SUBJECT: U.S./EC BILATERAL ON AGRICULTURE

1. AT THE REQUEST OF EC, WE MET WITH EC COMMISSION
OFFICIALS ON FRIDAY, MARCH 17, TO CLARIFY U.S. OFFERS TO
EC REQUESTS ON AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

2. EC DEL (MARINUCCI, STADLER, LESCUT) WAS CONFUSED
ABOUT THE PRESENTATION OF U.S. TARIFF OFFERS IN TERMS OF
AD VALOREM EQUIVALENTS AND ASKED WHETHER OR NOT U.S.
PLANNED TO MAKE OFFERS IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC DUTIES
WHERE SUCH DUTIES PRESENTLY APPLY. U.S. DEL (KOENIG,
MCNAMARA, TINKLEPAUGH, HARPER) EXPLAINED THAT EXPRESSION
OF TARIFF REDUCTIONS IN AD VALOREM TERMS WAS DONE FOR
TECHNICAL REASONS AND THAT SPECIFIC RATES WILL BE
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FURNISHED TO EC UPON RECEIPT FROM WASHINGTON.

3. THE EC FURTHER REQUESTED CLARIFICATION OF THE U.S.
CONDITIONAL OFFER ON CHICKEN WAR ITEMS (POTATO STARCH,
BRANDY, DEXTRINE) AND INQUIRED WHETHER THE U.S. OFFER IS
A TWO STEP OFFER, I.E., REDUCTION TO PRE-CHICKEN WAR
RATE FOLLOWED BY A SEPARATE OFFER OF A PERCENTAGE CUT

IN THESE RATES. U.S. REPLIED THAT CONCESSIONS ON THESE ITEMS ARE CONDITIONED ON SATISFACTORY SOLUTION OF POULTRY PROBLEM SO THAT U.S. POULTRY EXPORTS WOULD TAKE PLACE UNDER MORE CERTAIN AND STABLE CONDITIONS.

4. EC REQUESTED CLARIFICATION OF U.S. OFFER ON WINE GALLON SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENT. U.S. DEL REPLIED THAT THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE CHANGE OF ITS SYSTEM AND THAT THIS WILLINGNESS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A POSITIVE SIGN. HOWEVER, THE ISSUE IS COMPLEX AND HAS VARIOUS DOMESTIC LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS. EC DEL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT U.S. IS WILLING TO CONSIDER EC REQUEST.

5. U.S. DEL TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS KEEN DISAPPOINTMENT WITH EC AGRICULTURAL OFFERS ON TWO COUNTS. FIRST, THE EC RESPONDED TO ONLY 36 OF 97 TARIFF REQUESTS BY THE U.S. SECONDLY, THESE OFFERS WERE SO SMALL AS TO BE OF NO PRACTICAL TRADE SIGNIFICANCE. U.S. DEL ASKED THE EC TO RECONSIDER THEIR OFFER LIST AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EC OFFERS WERE JUST A BEGINNING AND THAT MORE SIGNIFICANT OFFERS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF MAJOR INTEREST TO U.S. AGRICULTURE. U.S. DEL STRESSED THAT U.S. HAS NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING WITH EC DOMESTIC PROGRAMS, AND THAT U.S. TARIFF REQUESTS WOULD NOT AFFECT THE CAP.

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6. EC DEL TOOK NOTE OF REMARKS AND STATED THAT THEY DID NOT WISH TO ENTER INTO SUBSTANTIVE TALKS AT THIS TIME.

7. U.S. DEL SUGGESTED ANOTHER SESSION BE HELD IN EARLY APRIL TO DISCUSS MORE THOROUGHLY U.S. TARIFF AND NTM REQUESTS OF EC ON AN ITEM-BY-ITEM BASIS. EC DEL AGREED TO THIS AND MENTIONED THAT EC MAY WANT EC MEMBER STATES TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

8. DRAFTED BY TINKLEPAUGH. MCDONALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, COMMODITY AGREEMENTS, TARIFF AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA04436
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780128-0068
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780333/aaaabbvb.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f73a1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3229034
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S./EC BILATERAL ON AGRICULTURE
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f73a1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014